

California Transportation Commission
Transit Augmentation Proposal
October 22, 2021

The California Transportation Commission (Commission) requests a one-time augmentation of \$2.5 billion from the General Fund surplus to fund transit projects in the State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP). The Commission approved a motion to make this request at the October 13, 2021 Commission meeting.

This proposal would expand and improve transit infrastructure and equipment throughout the state, allowing residents greater access to jobs and services, such as health care and education, without reliance on driving. This is aligned with California's ambitious climate goals to reduce vehicle miles traveled and vehicle emissions and will help improve transportation equity by providing additional mobility options. Additionally, transit has played a key role in connecting essential workers to their jobs during the COVID pandemic and is expected to continue to do so.

The STIP has two components, the Regional Improvement Program and the Interregional Improvement Program. The Regional Improvement Program is funded with 75% of the available funding subdivided by formula to each county of the state. The Interregional Improvement Program is funded with the remaining 25% of funding and is available to Caltrans for interregional improvements. The 2022 STIP fund estimate adopted by the Commission identified no new funding capacity from the Public Transportation Account for transit projects through fiscal year 2026-27, due to other statutory demands on the account.

The proposed augmentation would provide critical funding to address transit needs including:

- Intermodal facility improvements including the creation of new facilities and expansions
- Zero-emission buses and their infrastructure
- Transit facility improvements, including bus stops, signage, lighting, and seating
- Transit maintenance facilities and state of good repair projects
- Rail improvements including, double tracking and siding
- Grade Separations

Once the funding becomes available, the Commission would provide a share distribution to the regions and Caltrans. The regions and Caltrans would submit project proposals to the Commission for funding. The Commission would approve the projects for programming at a regularly scheduled Commission meeting. Allocations would follow the normal STIP process as soon as appropriated.

By funding transit through the STIP, this proposal will allow regions to fund transit projects that meet their most urgent needs; provide an equitable distribution of funds to all regions of the state; encourage partnerships between Caltrans and regions; and provide incentives to utilize resources in a timely and cost-effective manner.